



PRINCE HOME

Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs Newsletter • Volume 1, Issue 2 • October 2016

It's a lot of work *By: Mark Jolly*



Most of the veterans who come to the Prince Home have realized that they have hit rock bottom. Not a very comfortable position or one that anyone is proud to announce. But at our Home, we do not look at a veteran's past, as much as where are they when arrive in our home and how can we help them move up and back to become a productive citizen. Here is a success story from one of our residents, Mark Jolly.

Hello my name is Mark Jolly. I am 53 years old, born and raised in Streator, Illinois. I enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1985 and was discharged in 1991. I am the proud father of two sons, but my marriage failed. After multiple surgeries, I was left with many unpaid medical bills and could not handle the difficulties in my life. I swallowed my pride and moved in with my siblings for a short period of time during this difficult time, but I felt I was just a burden to my family. So I enrolled into the homeless program at Hines VA Hospital. This is when I found the place that has put me on the road to getting my life back in order, The Prince Home.

After hearing many horror stories about living in a homeless shelter, I was very nervous. But all my fears dissolved when I arrived at Prince Home. I noticed immediately how clean the home was and everyone was very

friendly. They told me "Welcome Home" when I walked in the door and helped me feel settled in. My counselor and the entire Prince Home staff encouraged me to pursue my dream of going back to school and earning a degree.

The staff at the Prince Home helped me look into veterans benefits and grants outside the VA to help me pay for my tuition and books. With lots of encouragement and assistance from my counselor and other staff at the Prince Home, I started school at Kankakee Community College in January of 2014 studying for my Associate's Degree in Business with an emphasis on Accounting.

Life was finally getting back on track for me, but my serious health issues returned. But the staff watched over me, especially near Christmas 2015, when they realized I was having severe health problems and had an ambulance take me to the hospital. This saved my life! The doctors told me if it wasn't for the quick actions of the staff at Prince Home I wouldn't be alive today! The staff assisted me kept their vigilance over me and I am proud to say that I just returned to school this summer. I will graduate in May of 2017.

My counselor has been the driving force behind my success here at the Prince Home. Her encouraging words and her blunt and honest comments have helped me grow mentally, spiritually and increase my self-esteem. Prince Home has not been just a place to stay, but the family I needed during this time. Whether it was dealing with the death of my mother, my long time battle with alcoholism, or encouraging me to spend time with my sons, the Prince Home staff has been my motivator. After I obtain my degree I plan to find a bookkeeping job and again become a positive part of society. Without the compassion, understanding, and caring of the staff of the Prince Home none of this would have been possible. I am finally on the right path to becoming self-sufficient again and I owe it all to Prince Home.

Activity Corner

The residents at Prince Home love to fish. Staff transport the residents to fishing spots all over Kankakee County. This area boasts one of the cleanest and best fishing rivers in the country, the Kankakee River. The residents spend this time socializing with each other as well as participating in this great outdoor sport! As you can see by these pictures they take it serious and most times it pays off with a big number of fish being caught! The residents will also take advantage of the fishing pond on the grounds right here at the Manteno Veterans Home. Many times the residents will grab a pole and spend their free time at the pond. This activity is inexpensive and offers our residents some much needed relaxation from the daily structure of the program. The residents really enjoy this great activity.



Ladies Auxiliary Vietnam Recognition



On May 21, 2016, the **NSDAR (National Society of Daughters of American Revolution)** visited the Prince Home to pay tribute to our Vietnam Veterans. They presented each veteran with a certificate and purchased lunch for all of the veterans. The residents truly appreciated the recognition and thanked the Ladies Auxiliary for such a wonderful program.

Bickford Does a Benefit for Prince Home

The Bickford Independent and Assisted Living Community located in Bourbonnais, IL held a Community Spaghetti Dinner at the Brickford House on June 22, 2016 to raise money for Prince Home residents. The staff and the residents attended this event and had a great time!



Wish List

The Prince Home attempts to provide an array of personal care items as a means for our veterans to regain and maintain dignity, and as a necessity for those who, in finding their way to an independent and productive life, are employed or are seeking employment.

Your gifts bring added relief from the struggles and social indignities that many who come to our door must struggle with on a daily basis.

- Gift cards (*Walmart, Berkots, etc.*)
- New bedding (*bag twin*)
- Suits for interviews
- Pop
- Bottled water
- New dishes
- Toiletries (*toothpaste, deodorant, body wash, etc.*)
- Stamps (*forever stamps book*)
- Tickets to events (*basketball, baseball, concerts, etc.*)
- Sponsored food events (*dinners, lunches, etc.*)
- DVD's



Thank you for your consideration of these items.

We will be happy to provide you with a tax-deductible receipt for your donation.

Please call with any questions or to schedule a delivery 815-468-6581 x214

Old Dog Rider's Association Rides for the Veterans

The Old Dog Rider's Association held a benefit ride, in the picnic area of the Manteno Veteran Nursing Home, which directly benefited the Prince Home. The veterans from Prince Home voted for Best Motorcycle and picked tickets for a raffle. A majority of the proceeds will go towards funding outings and activities for the residents. The program director told the Riders in attendance

about the history of Prince Home and the different aspects that makes the Home successful working with homeless veterans. The Prince residents discussed about their personal challenges and how Prince Home is assisting them in fulfilling their ultimate goal of returning to the community with a better sense of purpose.



Thank you!

Prince Home's residents and staff would like to thank all of the countless community organizations that continue to show their support of Prince through their food, clothing, and monetary donations. It is greatly appreciated!!!

The Prince Home at Manteno is a program for homeless and disabled veterans co-located with the Veterans' Home in Manteno, Illinois. The Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs Prince Home at Manteno is a residential program for homeless and disabled Veterans. The facility is wheelchair assessable, and provides residential housing for eligible male and female Veterans.. Our Staff is proficient in addressing a multitude of challenges including but not limited to, homelessness, PTSD, sobriety, self-esteem, and hopelessness.

The Prince Home is located in rural Manteno, Illinois, just 40 miles south of Chicago. It shares grounds with the Illinois Veterans' Home at Manteno.



Illinois Department of
Veterans' Affairs

Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs
Prince Home at Manteno
One Veterans Drive
Manteno, Illinois 60950
(815) 468-6581